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the case, time will be consumed and miserably wasted in international conferences in dealing with the rules and methods of its barbarism and ferocity. The program which all the governments accepted when they consented to go to the second Hague Conference gave prominence to military and naval subjects, and the committees, against the will of many members, we are sure, have simply been following out this program. It was to have been expected. It is a disgrace to our civilization that it is so, but so it is. A good deal of faithful and direct work will yet have to be done before this "plague to mankind," this "curse of the human race," this "greatest of all human evils," will be outlawed forever from the respect of civilized men and governments.

But the important things have not by any means been neglected. They have been urged upon the Conference day after day by deputations, by memorials, by innumerable letters and telegrams. There is no doubt that, while less has been said about them in the meetings, they have been the subjects of the deepest and most anxious concern of many of the leading members. There is evidently in the Conference as a whole a strong disposition to make it a real peace conference, to advance as far as possible the institutions which will conserve the harmony of the world, reduce war to the lowest possible limit, and ultimately eliminate it entirely. This disposition has manifested itself in a number of ways, and will doubtless become stronger and stronger from now to the end of the Conference.

Of particular measures of this kind, two have already been voted on by the committees. The proposition for the exemption of private property at sea from capture in time of war, so powerfully advocated by Mr. Choate, was adopted by the committee by a vote of 21 to 11. It may nevertheless be defeated at the Conference, as three or four of the great powers voted against it. But the vote itself is most significant, and it will not be surprising if the opposition dwindles away. The American proposition on the subject of the collection of contractual debts by force has been adopted in committee without a dissenting vote. This proposition is that no force shall be used in the collection of debts from a debtor power if that power is willing to have the claim submitted to arbitration. This principle does not go as far as the Drago doctrine, which is opposed to the collection of such debts by force, at any time or under any conditions, but if it is adopted it will without doubt settle the matter for all time.

The subject of an obligatory arbitration treaty has been introduced, but the consideration of it has not progressed much. There seems to be little objection to the American proposal on the subject, which specifies certain classes of cases for arbitration and provides that the carrying out of the treaty shall be subject to the constitu-

tional provisions of the different countries. We print on another page the American proposition for the transformation of the present Hague Court into a genuine judicial tribunal with permanent judges, fifteen in number. The Russian delegation has presented another method for making the Hague Court more efficient. But the discussion of the subject has not yet advanced very far.

The subject of periodic meetings of the Hague Conference has not yet been taken up, though Mr. Nelidoff has announced that the subject will at least be considered, though he doubts if any definite action will be taken. The British delegation, through its chairman, Sir Edward Fry, has presented the subject of limitation of armaments, as was expected. But consideration of the subject has been put off more than once, two or three of the powers seeming determined that it shall not even be discussed. But we shall almost certainly hear more of it within the next two weeks.

The month of August is sure, we think, to see a rapid maturing of the deliberations of the Conference, and we think there is good reason to believe that the final results will be large and beneficent, if not all is gained that we might wish.

The American delegation, headed by Mr. Choate, all reports agree, is taking a strong lead in the direction of constructive measures and doing service of a very high order. They cannot take too advanced ground for the people of the nation.

### **Education for Peace.**

The National Educational Association, which has just held its forty-fifth annual convention at Los Angeles, has put itself squarely on record as opposed to the current militarism and in favor of the closest friendship and permanent pacific relations among the nations. In the report of the Committee on Resolutions, of which Charles C. Van Lieu of Chico, Cal., was chairman, we find the following admirable section :

"The teachers of the United States of America, assembled in the National Educational Association at Los Angeles, Cal., view with pleasure and satisfaction the conditions which have brought about the second Hague Conference. We believe that the forces of the world should be organized and operated in the interests of peace and not of war; we believe that the material, commercial and social interests of the people of the United States and of the whole world demand that the energies of the governments and of the people be devoted to the constructive and helpful pursuits of peace, and that the people be relieved of the burdens of providing at enormous expense the armaments suggested by the competitive desire for supremacy in war; we further believe that the fear of war and the possibility of war would alike decline if the governments were to rely more upon the sentiment of the people and less upon the strength of their armies and navies.

"We urge upon our representatives at the second Hague Conference to use their influence to widen the scope and increase the power of the Hague tribunal. While disclaiming any desire to suggest a program or to urge specific action, we do urge our representatives to secure the most favorable action possible upon international arbitration, the limitation of armaments, the protection of private property at sea, and the investigation of international disputes by an impartial commission before the declaration of hostilities.

"We recommend to the teachers that the work of the Hague Conference and of the peace associations be studied carefully, and the results given proper consideration in the work of instruction."

That is very high ground, but not higher than the enlightenment and social advancement of the day demand. This utterance of the ten thousand teachers gathered at Los Angeles will, we are sure, receive the hearty and almost unanimous support of the whole great guild of American teachers — more than half a million in number. Their demand of the Hague Conference is the demand of the whole nation, and not of educators only.

It is impossible to escape a thrill of delight at thought of the transformation certain to take place in the sentiment of the youth of the nation in a generation, if the fine ideal portrayed in the foregoing resolution is steadily impressed upon the minds and hearts of the children in the schools by this "noble army" of teachers. Newer and saner ideas of national greatness and honor, of love of country, of the rights of other nations, and of international service, will take the place of the crude and selfish national sentiments that have often passed for sacred principles, and will render war practically impossible hereafter.

The thought of the unparalleled service which these teachers have it in their power to perform, not only by positive instruction, but by the simple attitude which they steadily manifest in the presence of their pupils, on this most important matter, should inspire every one of them with a holy zeal to be "living epistles" of peace to the impressionable minds which fall to their charge. It is in the schools chiefly that the roots of the war system must be destroyed, and all this can be done without in the least interfering with the proper functions of teaching. On the contrary, there is nothing that so promotes intellectual development along any line whatever as the inspiration of high ideals.

The action of the Los Angeles Convention was due in large part to the position taken in his splendid inaugural address by Hon. Nathan C. Schaeffer, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, who was president this year. But the chord which Dr. Schaeffer touched was ready to be struck, and its note will be caught up and echoed and reechoed throughout the nation until the great body of instructors of our boys and girls finds itself in hearty accord with the humane and rational ideals

which are to-day so rapidly mastering and supplanting, in the international sphere, those degrading and mischievous ones which have come down to us from an ignorant, barbarous and violent past.

Through Dr. Schaeffer's great kindness, we are able to give our friends the pleasure of reading his Los Angeles speech in full, which will be found on another page.

In line with the action of the National Educational Association convention at Los Angeles was that of the American Institute of Instruction at its meeting in Montreal the first week in July. Last year at New Haven the Institute appointed a committee of seven, consisting of Hon. Walter E. Ranger, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Rhode Island, Dr. Schaeffer of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, Dr. William A. Mowry, Dr. Homer B. Sprague, Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews and Mr. George H. Purington, to prepare a report on the teaching of international peace in the schools. This committee presented a carefully prepared report at Montreal on July 6. This report, which was heartily approved by the Convention, urged, among other things, that in all the States the schools should next year devote a part of one day at least to inculcating the principles for which the Hague Conference stands, as had been done before by the National Association of School Superintendents at their recent Chicago meeting.

Thus these three great associations of educators have placed themselves in the front rank of the peace propagandists, and their influence in the revolution — for it is a revolution — of sentiment now going on in regard to international relations and institutions is bound to be telling in the years just before us. At the Hague Conference also, where so much is now at stake, both the Los Angeles and the Montreal Conventions have thrown the weight of their powerful influence, by strong cablegrams, in favor of the most advanced action in the direction of world organization for peace. It is safe to reckon, from this time on, not only the half million teachers of the United States, but the three and a half millions of the world, as on the side of international concord. Light and knowledge are essentially universal and are the natural enemies of national exclusiveness and war.

### Is the Hague Conference to be a Farce?

It is easy to criticise and prophesy failure. A letter lying before me says, "The Hague Convention in my opinion is a huge fraud, and will result in a grand fiasco." Mr. Frederick Palmer writes in *Collier's Weekly*, under date of June 15, of "The Farce at The Hague," and undertakes to show by the development of the war budgets since 1899, by the wars that have occurred since that time, and by certain attitudes taken by some of the nations toward each other, that the whole Conference is a hollow sham, a mere powwow about war, and that no good in the direction of peace can come of it. In the